

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting**

Virtual

**Thursday, May 21, 2026
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

Present: Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Katy Matthews, Vice Chair (District III); Joseph Fray (District II); Paul Komelasky (District I); Asa Orrin-Brown (District III); David Brennan, (District III); Cooper Hughes (Student Member)

Absent: Eli Hurley-Fathelbab (Student Member)

RPCA Staff: Hashim Taylor, Director; Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Jose Ayala, Principal Planner; Tamika Coleman, Division Chief, Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Cultural Activities

Council Member: John Chapman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He mentioned that Councilwoman Green was unable to attend tonight but we will invite her to a future meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner Reports

District I

Commissioner Fox shared that he has resigned from the Waterfront Commission, which means a Park and Recreation seat on that commission will open in June.

Commissioner Miller reported that progress is being made on the memorial near Rivergate Park honoring those lost in the recent plane and helicopter crash. He also noted that the power plant project recently held another virtual community meeting regarding site deconstruction. Additionally, bleacher installation is underway at Simpson Stadium Park, and the project is beginning to take shape.

Commissioner Komelasky mentioned that he may have interest in joining the Waterfront Commission and he will meet with Commissioner Fox to discuss.

District II

Commission Chair Colarulli reported that the ribbon cutting for the Four Mile Run Park Kayak Launch was a successful event with strong attendance from City Council members and the community. He noted that the launch is a great asset to the City and is already being well utilized by residents.

Commissioner Goode suggested that the Environmental Policy Commission would be a valuable opportunity for Park and Recreation Commission representation and volunteered to serve in that role if no other commissioners are interested. He also reported that all concrete work at the George Mason site has been completed.

Commissioner Fray also mentioned the new kayak launch and how much use it's getting. He attended the ribbon cutting and enjoyed the event.

District III

Commissioner Matthews did not have an update.

Commissioner Orrin-Brown is excited about the new kayak launch and plans to get out on the water before the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Brennan shared that the Youth Sports Advisory group had a community meeting to gain feedback on the Cost Recovery policy.

Student Members: Eli Hurley-Fathelbab was not in attendance. **Cooper Hughes** shared that the field use has increased around the City now that the weather has warmed up.

b. RPCA Staff Reports

Laura Durham reminded commissioners that RPCA continues to actively recruit lifeguards and other seasonal staff. Free lifeguard training and certification are available for individuals ages 15 and older, with additional summer employment opportunities available for those age 16 and up. The outdoor pool season begins Memorial Day weekend, and residents are encouraged to share these opportunities with interested family members, friends, and neighbors.

Diane Ruggiero provided an update on the Torpedo Factory Art Center RFP process. City Council officially closed the solicitation after receiving one proposal and authorized staff to move forward with its review. The review, led by General Services, is expected to continue through the summer, with staff anticipated to return to Council with recommendations in the fall. She also mentioned that Sails on the Potomac and Jazz Fest will take place June 12–14. Free tickets for ship tours are being distributed quickly, with some tours already sold out, and significant activity is expected in Old Town throughout the three-day event.

IV. Action Items

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2026

ACTION: FY26.5.21.26A

Motion: Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Fox seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

V. Items for Information

Duke Street Land Use Plan

Jose Ayala introduced Carrie Beach, Jose Delcid and Kevin Kask of Planning and Zoning. The Presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/media/34402>

Waterfront Implementation Plan – Flood Mitigation Update

Matt Landes gave an update on the Flood Mitigation Plan. The presentation can be found at the 1:13:43 mark of the meeting.

https://alexandriava.zoom.us/rec/share/NOzS7oMmeBwyk_U2jItNg_qNY8hs9nQ1MtPoDXx7WlAbV5zLmHSXsXeeGtNx3HE8.7-80ewmUtmwGkf3J

Summary of Community Discussion and Feedback on Youth Sports

Laura Durham provided an update on community feedback received regarding the proposed Athletic Field Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy. Feedback generally supported updating the policy, increasing access to athletic fields for residents and community groups, prioritizing Alexandria residents in the use of tax-subsidized facilities, and expanding opportunities for multiple sports to access City athletic fields. Community members also encouraged the City to explore ways to better utilize underused field space. Staff will continue working with the Park and Recreation Commission, Youth Sports Advisory Board, and community stakeholders throughout the summer and plans to return in the fall with refined policy recommendations and a public hearing.

VI. NEXT MEETING

June 18, 2026 – Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY26.5.21.26B

Motion: Commissioner Fox moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

These minutes are intended to serve as a summary of the meeting and do not represent a verbatim transcript. The entire meeting can be found here:

https://alexandriava.zoom.us/rec/share/NOzS7oMmeBwyk_U2jItNg_qNY8hs9nQ1MtPoDXx7WlAbV5zLmHSXsXeeGtNx3HE8.7-80ewmUtmwGkf3J